



## Fake Arizona rehab centers scam Native Americans far from home

By ANITA SNOW  
Associated Press

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Autumn Nelson said she was seeking help for alcohol addiction last spring when fellow members of the Blackfeet Nation in Montana suggested a rehabilitation center in Phoenix, far to the south. The 38-year-old said the center even bought her a one-way airline ticket to make the 1,300-mile (2,100-kilometer) journey. But Nelson said after a month, she was kicked out after questioning why there was one therapist for 30 people and no Native American staff despite a focus on Native clients. "All of a sudden I was out in the 108-degree heat in Phoenix, Arizona," said Nelson. "I was scared, and didn't know where to go."

Continued on Page 2



Grassroots advocates hold a Native American gourd rattle at Drumbeat Indian Arts, Monday, July 31, 2023, in Phoenix. Associated Press

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# Fake Arizona rehab centers scam Native Americans far from home

Continued from Front

Now back on the Blackfeet reservation, Nelson is among hundreds of Native Americans who have been targeted by Phoenix-area scammers. The billing schemes often left clients homeless and in some cases financed lavish lifestyles for the fraudulent providers, authorities have said. Arizona has been defrauded in recent years out of hundreds of millions of dollars through such scams, state officials estimated.

The fraudulent charges were submitted mostly through the American Indian Health Program, a Medicaid health plan that allows providers to bill directly for reimbursement of services rendered to Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

Federal law lets Native Americans enrolled in federally recognized tribes choose the fee-for-service plan or a managed care plan. The state Medicaid program known as AHCCCS — Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System — contracts with managed care organizations to provide health services to most Medicaid members in Arizona, while the fee-for-service plan allows Native Americans to use any provider registered with AHCCCS.

The scams' far-reaching consequences are now becoming known as warnings are sounded by state and tribal governments outside Arizona, as well as Montana's U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat, and Gov. Greg Gianforte, a Republican.

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs and Attorney General Kris Mayes — who has said authorities believe a Nevada-based criminal syndicate launched the first scams — in May announced they were stepping up an investigation on fraudulent Medicaid billing begun before they took office in January. The FBI and the U.S. Attorney General's Office have joined Arizona prosecutors in the probe. And Tester has called on the Centers



Grassroots advocates Coleen Chatter, left, Geri Long, second from left, Reva Stewart, and Raquel Moody, right, stand outside their headquarters at Drumbeat Indian Arts, Monday, July 31, 2023, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

for Medicare and Medicaid to investigate as well. Non-medical transport companies that reportedly have taken Native Americans from their reservations to phony programs should also be investigated, said Arizona State Sen. Theresa Hatathlie, a Democrat and Navajo who lives on the reservation. The New Mexico Attorney General announced a "Don't be taken for a Ride" campaign, warning people not to accept transportation from strangers to go to Arizona rehab centers.

The Navajo Nation and the Blackfeet Nation declared public health emergencies to free up resources to help affected members. The Navajo Nation also launched a program called Operation Rainbow Bridge to help members get into legitimate programs or back to the reservation. Blackfeet members who recruit on the reservation for fake programs face thousands of dollars in fines and even expulsion, the tribal leadership decided.

Arizona has since suspended Medicaid payments to the center where Nelson stayed — a phone number on the provider's LinkedIn account no longer works — along with more than 300 other providers based on "credible allegations of

fraud" as of Aug. 18. Some providers closed and some have appealed to stay open.

AHCCCS instituted tighter controls, including a six-month moratorium for enrolling new behavioral health clinics for Medicaid billing. Site visits and background checks with fingerprinting are now required for high-risk behavioral health providers when they enroll or revalidate.

The scams exploded during COVID-19 lockdowns.

"There were a lot of rules relaxed that allowed those scammers to get in," said Dr. John Molina, health service director for the federally funded Native Health, a health center serving Native Americans in Phoenix. He said addiction among Native Americans is rooted in generations of trauma.

"This takes us back to the early years of colonization and how Natives were taken advantage of for economic gain," said Molina, of Pascua Yaqui and San Carlos Apache ancestry. Last year, Johnwick Nathan, 29, was indicted on multiple counts of fraud, money laundering and forgery. Authorities allege Nathan illegally billed Medicaid on behalf of Native American clients, a charge he denies. He is scheduled

to be tried Sept. 18.

The scams can be highly lucrative. In a federal case, a woman who operated a fake recovery program in Mesa, Arizona, pleaded guilty in July to wire fraud and money laundering after raking in over \$22 million in Medicaid money between 2020 and 2021 for services never provided.

Court records don't say whether patients were Native Americans, only that they were brought to the facility just once and billings were subsequently made in their names up to 90 days. Billings were also made for dead people and prisoners. Diana Marie Moore, 42, will be sentenced Dec. 18 after an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service. A federal court required her to forfeit property obtained through the fraud, including four homes, seven high-end vehicles and luxury items including Rolex watches, diamond rings and a rainbow of Louis Vuitton handbags. Navajo police visiting Phoenix in recent months have encountered hundreds of Native Americans living in the street after centers closed, said Harland Cleveland, special operations manager for Rainbow Bridge. Many are inebriated and don't have cell phones to call their families,

he said.

Former clinic clients "are too scared" to testify before the state Senate, Hatathlie said.

Reva Stewart and several other Native American women living in Phoenix operate an online network to help find missing people they call "our relatives," posting details of those lost on social media.

Stewart, who is Navajo, got involved a year ago after watching drivers stop vans outside Phoenix Indian Medical Center, offering people a place to stay.

"Something didn't look right," said Stewart, who manages a Native American arts shop nearby. Around that time, her cousin disappeared into a similar vehicle in New Mexico.

After an hourslong trip, the cousin was kicked out of the Phoenix center she was taken to after refusing to complete intake forms, Stewart said. She said her cousin is now back on the reservation and sober.

Months later, Moody learned Walker died from alcohol poisoning and was buried in a pauper's grave. Moody quit drinking and now volunteers with Stewart's group #stolenpeoplestolenbenefits to help Native American families find lost loved ones who went to rehab homes.

Addiction recovery is a challenge on reservations, where resources for residential treatment aren't always available.

Nearly half of the Navajo Nation's 25,000 arrests in 2021 were for public intoxication, even though federal law prohibits alcohol sales on tribal land.

A small residential addiction treatment program on the Blackfeet reservation is usually full.

Blackfeet member Laura McGee's brother went missing shortly after arriving at a Phoenix facility in the spring, she said. After a harrowing search, the family found him and brought him back to Montana. Arizona later suspended Medicaid payments to the provider while law enforcement investigates. □



# Scorching heat in central U.S. brings warnings and tragedy as 1-year-old girl dies in hot car

By MARGERY A. BECK

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) —

Scorching heat affecting nearly 100 million people across a huge swath of the U.S. sent schools, outdoor workers and organizers of open-air events scrambling to adjust Tuesday and claimed the life of a 1-year-old girl left in a Nebraska day care center's van on one of the hottest days of the year.

Officers and medics were called Monday afternoon to Kidz of the Future Child-care in Omaha for an unresponsive baby inside the van, police said. The call came as temperatures reached into the upper 90s (mid-30s Celsius) and the heat index soared to around 110 degrees (43 Celsius), part of heat wave that has been plaguing the central part of the country for days. The child, Ra'Miyah Worthington, was pronounced dead at a hospital, police said. Her parents questioned why her absence at the day care wasn't noticed.

"She loved, loved, loved her family," her mother, Sina Johnson, told the television station WOWT. "She loved her daddy. She was daddy's little girl."

Prosecutors charged the 62-year-old van driver, Ryan Williams, of Omaha, on Tuesday with a felony count of child negligence resulting in death, which carries a sentence of up to four years in prison.

A bond hearing for Williams was set for Wednesday morning. Online court records didn't yet list an attorney who could comment on his behalf, and a phone listing was disconnected.

"He was responsible for getting those kids inside," Douglas County Chief Deputy Attorney Brenda Beadle.

"That little girl was in that van between five and six hours with the temperature outside reaching nearly 100."

The death came as the National Weather Service



Heat waves rise off the road as a cyclist makes his way through Water Works Park, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

issued heat alerts Tuesday for parts of 22 states stretching from the Midwest and Great Plains down to the Gulf Coast.

The high temperatures in some states, including Nebraska, Iowa and parts of South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, are expected to be as much as 20 degrees above average. Higher overnight temperatures and high humidity are expected to compound the effects of the heat, which the weather service said would stick around through Thursday and possibly into Friday.

The heat led schools across the Midwest to make changes to their outdoor activities, bringing recess indoors and postponing sports events from South Dakota to Indiana.

In eastern Iowa, the annual Taste of Iowa City event was moved from Thursday to next Tuesday to avoid having people congregate in temperatures expected to soar over 100 degrees (38 Celsius).

Schools in the suburbs of Chicago delayed the start of classes to Friday or shifted to online learning and early release times. Chicago Public Schools among the country's largest districts, with more than 340,000 students did not announce alterations to its schedule.

That drew concern from

some parents about the conditions kids and teach-

ers face this week, noting past issues in specific build-

ings with window air conditioners.

Organizers who had planned an outdoor rally for workers' rights outside the Republican presidential primary debate in Milwaukee altered their plans with temperatures forecast to be near 100 degrees Wednesday.

Even in Florida, which is used to 90-plus temperatures in August, forecasters issued heat advisories in some areas, including Tallahassee. The heat index across the Panhandle was expected to top out at somewhere around 105 (40.5 Celsius) on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service. □

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# Texas' floating barrier to stop migrants draws recurring concerns from Mexico, U.S. official says

By **PAUL J. WEBER**  
**Associated Press**

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Mexico's government has repeatedly raised concerns with the U.S. about large buoys Texas put on the Rio Grande to deter migrants and agreements between the two countries could suffer if the floating barrier remains in place, a State Department official said in court Tuesday.

The testimony sought to reinforce what the Biden administration argues are the diplomatic stakes over wrecking-ball-sized buoys that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott authorized this summer as part of the Republican's increasingly hardline measures in the name of curbing the flow of migrants crossing the border.

U.S. District Judge David Ezra did not immediately rule at the conclusion of the hearing Tuesday in Austin. At one point, Ezra said the issue centered on whether Abbott has the power to unilaterally try stopping what the governor has described as an "invasion" on America's southern border. "Mexico has sensitivities about sovereignty and doesn't want to be seen



**Workers make adjustments to buoys being used as a barrier along the Rio Grande, Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, in Eagle Pass, Texas.**

as a lesser partner to the United States," said Hillary Quam, the State Department's coordinator for border affairs between U.S. and Mexico.

She said Mexico has raised concerns "at the highest diplomatic levels" with the U.S. in the short time that the buoys which stretch roughly the length of a handful of soccer fields on a portion

of the river near the Texas city of Eagle Pass have been on the water. Quam said infrastructure projects between the countries and Mexico's commitments to delivering water to the U.S. could stall over the barrier. The hearing was held days after Texas repositioned the barrier closer to U.S. soil. During a trip Monday to Eagle Pass, Abbott said the

barrier was moved "out of an abundance of caution" after what he described as allegations that they had drifted to Mexico's side of the river. He added that he did not know whether the allegations were true.

Ezra questioned why Texas would have moved the barrier if it was already on the U.S. side and whether the currents of the river

were causing the buoys to drift.

"If it were in a position Texas was comfortable with, they wouldn't have done that," Ezra said.

Ezra ordered both sides to submit written closing arguments by Friday as the Biden administration seeks a court injunction ordering the removal of the buoys.

In the meantime, Abbott's sprawling border mission known as Operation Lone Star continues to face numerous legal challenges, including a new one filed Monday by four migrant men arrested by Texas troopers after crossing the border.

Most have either had their cases dismissed or entered guilty pleas in exchange for time served. But the plaintiffs remained in a Texas jail for two to six weeks after they should have been released, according to the lawsuit filed by the Texas ACLU and the Texas Fair Defense Project.

Instead of a sheriff's office allowing the jails to release the men, the lawsuit alleges, they were transported to federal immigration facilities and then sent to Mexico. □

**Associated Press**

# A Pennsylvania court says state police can't hide how it monitors social media

By **MARK SCOLFORO**  
**Associated Press**

**HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)** —

Pennsylvania's Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that the state police can't hide



**The exterior of the Pennsylvania Judicial Center, home to the Commonwealth Court, Feb. 21, 2023, in Harrisburg, Pa.**

**Associated Press**

from the public its policy on how it monitors social media. Advocates for civil liberties cheered the decision. The law enforcement agency had argued that fully disclosing its policy for using software to monitor online postings may compromise public safety.

All four Democratic justices supported the majority decision, which said the lower Commonwealth Court went beyond its authority in trying to give the state police another attempt to justify keeping details of the policy a secret. Tuesday's order appears to end a six-year legal battle.

A state police spokesper-

son said the agency is reviewing the court decision. Andrew Christy, a lawyer with the ACLU of Pennsylvania, said the ruling "sort of puts law enforcement on the same playing field as all government agencies. If they have a legal justification to keep something secret, then they have to put forth sufficient evidence to justify that."

"Ultimately that relies on the voters understanding what law enforcement is doing so that then, through their elected representatives, they can rein them in when they're acting in a way that doesn't comport with what the public

wants," Christy said.

Justifying what the majority opinion described as heavy or complete redactions on every page of the nine-page regulation, the head of the state police's bureau of criminal investigations argued that greater transparency about the policy would make its investigations less effective.

The state Office of Open Records held a private review of the blacked out material and ruled that making the policy public would not be likely to harm investigations, calling the social media policy processes strictly internal and administrative in nature. □



## Turkey says U.N. lost neutrality after world body condemns Cyprus roadwork

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)** —

Turkey's foreign minister accused the United Nations of abandoning its neutrality on Tuesday, a day after the U.N. Security Council criticized construction work by Turkish Cypriots inside the buffer zone dividing Cyprus and condemned their assault on U.N. peacekeepers.

In a statement issued Monday, the Security Council described the construction of a road as a violation of the status quo that is contrary to council resolutions. The statement came at the end of emergency closed consultations by the council's 15 members.

Angry Turkish Cypriots last week punched and kicked a group of international peacekeepers that blocked crews working on a road that would encroach on the island's U.N.-controlled buffer zone. The road is designed to connect the village of Arsos, in the Turkish Cypriot north, with the multi-ethnic village of Pyla, which is inside the buffer zone and abuts the Greek Cypriot south.

"We believe that with this move, the United Nations has lost its neutrality," Turk-



A woman walks by a UN sign at the UN buffer zone inside Pyla village, outskirts of coastal city of Larnaca, Cyprus, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009.

Associated Press

ish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told reporters during a joint news conference with his Bulgarian counterpart. Fidan maintained that Greek Cypriots had been allowed to go ahead with similar road construction projects.

"The road built by Greek Cypriots towards the Greek

population in Pyla was never subjected to obstruction and condemnation by the United Nations," he said. He accused the U.N. of acting "like a hawk" to block the Turkish Cypriots' project. Earlier, the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement rejecting the U.N. Security Council's condemnation,

which is said was "divorced from the realities on the ground."

Cyprus was divided along ethnic lines in 1974 following a Turkish invasion that was triggered by a coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece. Only Turkey recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence

in the Mediterranean nation's northern third where Turkey maintains more than 35,000 troops. Although Cyprus joined the European Union in 2004, only the Greek Cypriot south where the island's internationally recognized government is seated enjoys full membership benefits.

Since 1974, a U.N. peacekeeping force known as UNFICYP has supervised the de facto cease-fire and maintained a buffer zone between Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces in the north and Greek Cypriot forces in the south. The Security Council welcomed the halt in construction by the Turkish Cypriot side and the removal of equipment and personnel. It called on both sides to show flexibility and support efforts by the U.N. envoy "to negotiate mutually agreed development in the area concerned."

The road would give Turkish Cypriots direct access to Pyla by circumventing a checkpoint on the northern fringe of a British military base, one of two bases that the U.K. retained after Cyprus gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960. □

## Iran unveils armed drone resembling America's MQ-9 Reaper

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL**

Associated Press

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran's Defense Ministry unveiled a drone on Tuesday resembling America's armed MQ-9 Reaper, claiming that the aircraft is capable of staying airborne for 24 hours and has the range to reach the country's archenemy Israel. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency published a photograph of the drone, called the Mohajer-10, on display at a conference marking Defense Industry Day with what appeared to be smoke-machine fog underneath it. "Mohajer" means "immigrant" in Farsi and has been a drone line manufactured by the Islamic Republic since 1985. IRNA said the drone is able to fly up to 24,000 feet with a speed of 210 kph (130

mph), carrying a bomb payload of up to 300 kilograms (660 pounds). It also said the drone could carry electronic surveillance equipment and a camera. Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, a protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also viewed the drone on Tuesday.

"Today, we can firmly introduce Iran as an advanced and technologic nation to the world," Raisi said in comments aired on state television.

He reiterated Iran's stance about friendly relations with "all countries in the world," adding that Iran's armed forces will cut off any hand that will reach out in an attempt to invade Iran, state TV reported.

The Associated Press could not immediately verify the claims about the drone's

capabilities, though an arm of state television shared a video of it taking off from a runway. Long-range drones like the Reaper also require ground stations and satellite communications.

Officials in Israel, which flies its own long-range, high endurance drones, did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. Iran has in the past captured U.S. drones or pieces of them, but there's no evidence that it has taken a General Atomics' Reaper, which is flown by the U.S. Air Force and allied American nations as a "hunter-killer" drone that can operate at high altitudes for long hours and follow a target before attacking.

North Korea in July showed off drones mirroring the Reaper, possibly designed



In this photo released by the Iranian Presidency Office, President Ebrahim Raisi, second left, listens to Chief of Aviation Industries of Armed Forces Gen. Afshin Khajehfard, as Defense Minister Gen. Mohammad Reza Gharaei Ashtiani, third left, listens, during a ceremony unveiling a drone called the Mohajer-10, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

from publicly available information about the aircraft.

In December 2011, Iran seized an RQ-170 Sentinel flown by the CIA to monitor

Iranian nuclear sites after it entered Iranian airspace from neighboring Afghanistan. Iran later reverse-engineered the drone to create their own variants. □



# The African Union suspends Niger until 'the effective restoration of constitutional order'

By **SAM MEDNICK**  
**Associated Press**

**NIAMEY, Niger (AP)** — The African Union on Tuesday suspended Niger from all of its institutions and activities "until the effective restoration of constitutional order" following last month's coup.

The Executive Council of the 55-nation bloc made the decision after mutinous soldiers overthrew Niger's democratically elected president almost four weeks ago and quickly entrenched themselves in power, rebuffing most dialogue efforts. President Mohamed Bazoum, his wife and son have been kept under house arrest in the capital, Niamey.

The suspension announcement was the council's first public communication since it met earlier this month to discuss Niger's crisis. The body made up of foreign ministers called on the African Union's other member nations and the international community to reject the "unconstitutional change of government and to refrain from any action likely to grant legiti-



From left; President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mousa Tourey, ECOWAS Special Envoy to Republic of Niger, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, Niger ousted President Mohamed Bazoum and Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammad Saad Abubakar III, pose in Niamey, Niger, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023. Associated Press

macy to the illegal regime in Niger."

A suspension means Nigerien representatives, from the head of state down, no longer can vote on AU proposals or participate in the organization's committees or working groups. The council's action was part

of a standard playbook the AU and regional bodies have taken in response to coups elsewhere in Africa, Nate Allen, an associate professor at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, said.

Also on Tuesday, the military junta that seized power

in Niger suspended authorization for German, Canadian and Czech nationals to import or carry weapons in the West African nation, a Western official told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The prohibition came from Niger's Ministry of Defense and was communicated

by the Nigerien embassies in the countries, said the official, who lacked authorized to speak to the media by name in line with regulations governing his work.

The AP saw a copy of the letter sent by Niger's Embassy in Germany, which said it was suspending "the issuance of authorizations for the individual and/or collective carrying of firearms on Nigerien territory until further notice."

It was unknown if other countries with a military presence in Niger, including France, Belgium and the United States, received the same directive, though it is believed they did, according to the Western official. It's also unclear if the order applies to past agreements or only new ones.

If it is retroactive, the edict would represent a significant escalation in Niger's deteriorating diplomatic relations with other countries and cripple the ability of any present force to train or to protect their embassies, said Wassim Nasr, a journalist and senior research fellow at the Soufan Center. □

## EU climate czar Frans Timmermans quits job to lead center-left coalition in Dutch elections

By **RAF CASERT**  
**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The European Union's climate chief

quit his job in the EU's executive arm Tuesday and will lead a broad center-left coalition of social demo-

crats and greens going into the Dutch elections in November. Social Democrat Frans Timmermans, 62, was the only candidate and won 91.8% of votes cast by party members of both groups Tuesday.

He will be seeking to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who will not run in the Nov. 22 election. Timmermans is a well-traveled politician who was the Dutch foreign minister before starting work at the EU's Commission. He has been leading the EU's climate push for the past four years. "Thanks to his excellent contribution and strong personal engagement, we have made great strides towards meeting the EU's

objectives to become the first climate neutral continent, and towards raising the levels of climate ambition globally," said EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen after accepting his resignation.

The Dutch elections are wide open, with two new parties vying to become the biggest force in the nation, as traditional groups like the Christian Democrats face major challenges to maintain their standing. In a fragmented political landscape, over a dozen parties will have a shot to get into parliament, and coalition talks are expected to be lengthy. The combined green and socialist list seeking to unite

the center-left vote is expected to be among the biggest groups emerging from the polls, possibly giving Timmermans a major role in the government talks.

The last four ruling Dutch coalitions have been led by Rutte's conservative People's Party for Freedom and Democracy.

Rutte and his last four-party coalition resigned in July after failing to reach agreement on a package of measures to rein in migration.

Rutte, the Netherlands' longest-serving premier, has announced that he will leave politics once a new coalition is formed after the election. □



European Commissioner for European Green Deal Frans Timmermans speaks during a media conference on threats of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security, and defense at EU headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

Associated Press



## Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea



levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward

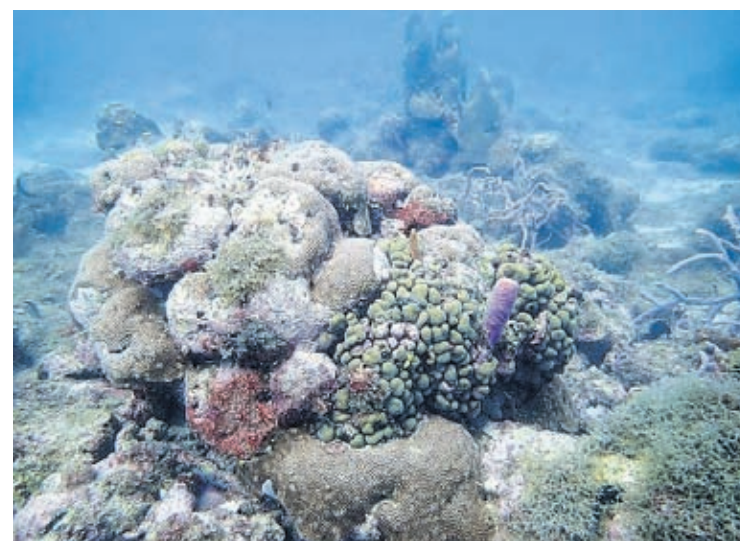
side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide

a clear view of how these

reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐



## Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged:

the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of



Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different

government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is. Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social

history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. ☐

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba  
by Jan Hartog.







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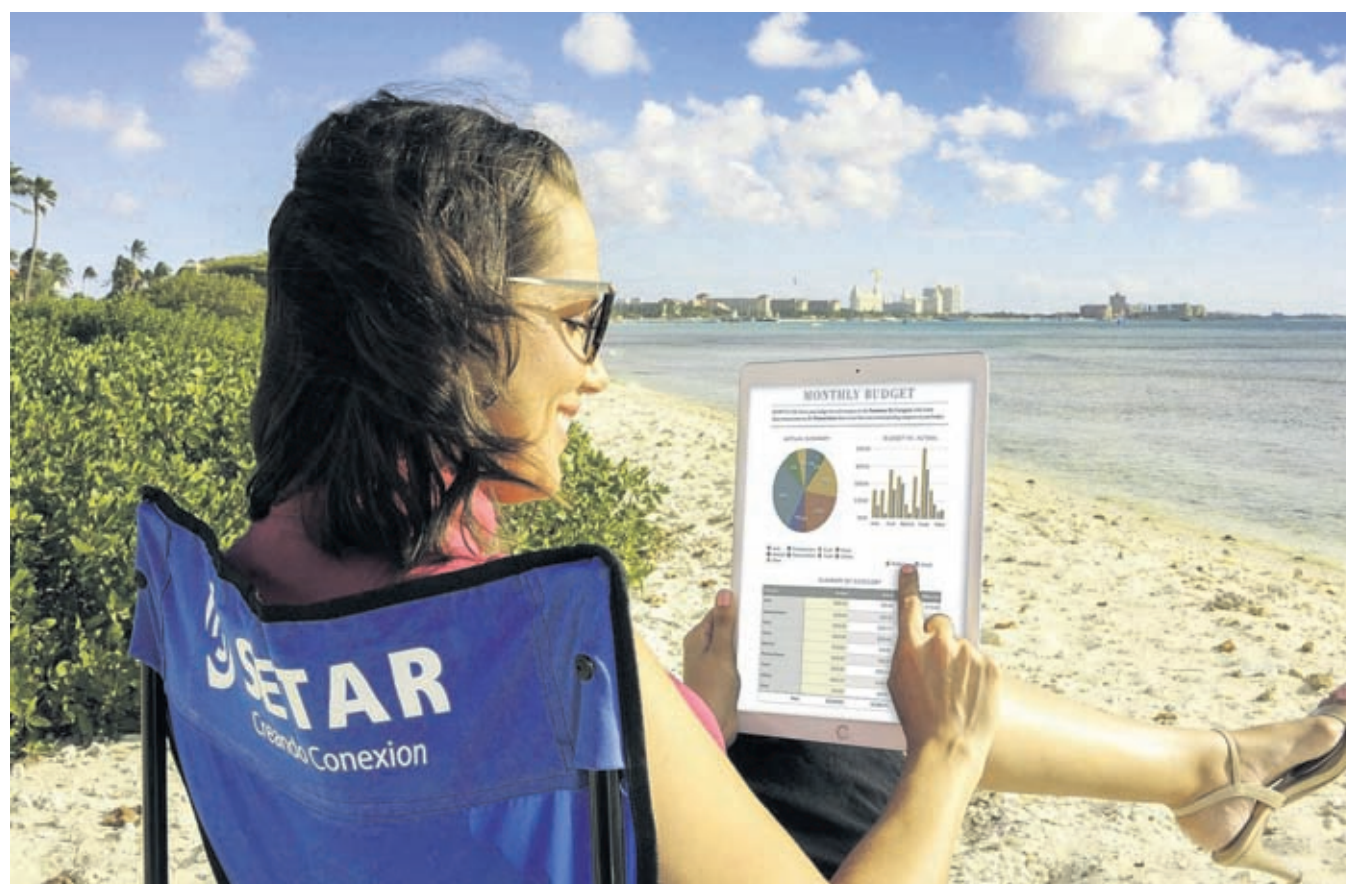
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## ARUBA'S ASIAN FUSION HOTSPOT!



View menu



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## Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments,



the Protestant church, Aruba's high- end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center- it is free for all! □



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## Create museum memories

**ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.**

### Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm. For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

### Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum

of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in

November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new perma-



nent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and work-

shops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

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## The song of the cicada

Episode CCXX- 220

Etnia Nativa is where connection and inspiration with the mystical aspects of Aruba's cultural heritage take place. Uncovering knowledge through the Island Insight platform and encouraging readers to engage with our island in a unique cultural setting. This segment shares the native mystical connection with cicadas (locally known as Ye-Ye') that epitomized reincarnation over forty million years, ancient insects replete with symbolism and recurring themes such as resurrection, immortality, spiritual realization, and spiritual ecstasy. They are part of the mythology of several cultures and continue to inspire and intrigue us to this day.

In episode 65th, we mentioned them, and here we are referring to their captivating song, which is considered one of the animal sounds with the highest decibels in the world and comparable with a 115 decibel rock concert and, for our native Aruban belief, is a reminder of the spiritual messengers, the joy of freedom, and the song for rain.

The spiritual symbolism of cicadas is multifaceted and deeply ingrained in the human psyche. They appear in much Native American folklore and ancient Greek literature. They were believed to bless the crops, bringing abundance, and usually appeared when the crops were ready for harvest. In some cases, these insects were ground into powder and used on wounded warriors, as they were thought to have healing powers. The Hopi natives believed that their ancestor was in the form of an insect and was called Maahu, a cicada kachina, or spirit being. The hump-backed piper, Kokopeli, has been described as influenced by cicadas and is often seen on Native American pottery found in the southwestern United States. Cicadas do not "sing" like crickets "stridulate", that is to say, they emit a strident sound hidden in the highest branches of the trees, and it is generated through its structures that are found at the base of the abdomen of the males, functioning as resonance boxes that are filled with air and emptied through timpani.



Curious is that cicadas are deaf; therefore, the females are not attracted by the sound but by the sound vibrations coming from the male, which we hear with great intensity during the summer because it is the mating season. Some species emerge from their underground lairs once every 17 or 13 years in order to mate before dying off and leaving their offspring to inter themselves for another 17 or 13 years before repeating the never-ending cycle.

The cicadas' dalliance lasts from four to six weeks, during which time they mate, lay eggs (each female can lay up to 400 eggs), and then die. Their offspring then take up residence underground, sucking on tree roots for the next few years.

Cicadas in Chinese culture are insects of extremely high status. They are con-

sidered pure because they subsist on dew and lofty because they perch in high treetops. An ancient analogy in China suggests that a high-ranking official should resemble a cicada—residing high, eating a pure diet, and having sharp eyes.

Japanese can buy some insects in shops, such as beetles, stag beetles, and bell crickets, but they cannot buy cicadas in shops. Many Japanese hunt cicadas, and cicada-hunting is one of the most popular activities for boys during summer holidays. In Japanese television, cicada songs are used as a symbol of the scene in which the heroes triumph.

In more recent times, the emergence of cicadas has been linked to significant religious events, such as the Jewish festival of Shavuot. The appearance of these insects during this time is considered a call to action for those of the Jewish faith, encouraging them to lead productive and meaningful lives. The Bible tells us that the ancient Israelites went on a musical racket upon being freed from their Egyptian enslavers—a musical racket comparable to the song of the cicada—as a celebration of freedom.



If you are keen to explore Aruba's deep heritage, Etnia Nativa is the place. Is a private residential house that integrates natural and reused materials and is bursting with art, culture, and heritage, where birds and wildlife enjoy its gardens. Each visitor is guided through an authentic encounter by the owner-builder and cultural expert. Booking a magical glimpse inside Etnia Nativa: WhatsApp (messages only) at +297 592 2702 or etnianativa03@gmail.com



## History of fishing in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fishermen is Gregory Wernet.**

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Sa-

vaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the



market to local restaurants.

### Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amber-

jack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. They have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 39 Beeth-  
1 Pitt of film oven's  
5 Finger "Für —"  
feature  
9 Jacket 40 Took in  
part 41 Bakery  
worker

11 Music's  
Lena

12 Mexican  
marinade

13 Musical  
set in  
Argentina

14 Pester

15 Folded

17 Gave  
away an  
intruder,  
maybe

19 Print  
measures

20 Perennial  
battlers

21 Little  
laborer

22 Preminger  
and  
Klemperer

24 Fellow

26 Like draft  
beer

29 Plopped  
down

30 Made

32 Like some  
corn

34 Mine yield

35 San  
Antonio  
sight

36 Full range

38 Myrrh,  
for one

## DOWN

1 Mel of  
many  
voices

2 Air traffic  
aids

3 Orbit  
point

4 Cotillion  
girl

5 Bright star

6 Out of bed

7 Focused

8 Main roles

10 Pendant  
with a  
picture

11 Listen  
to

16 Make  
good as  
new

18 Nerve  
impulse  
relayer

21 Nick and  
Nora's  
dog

23 Anxious

24 Scrooge  
visitor

25 Not  
anxious

27 Like some  
clocks

28 Read

29 Alarm

30 "Let's  
go!"

31 Hamper

33 Sur-  
rounded  
by

37 Will Smith  
biopic

W	E	A	P	O	N		T	A	S	K	
A	L	G	O	R	E		A	L	O	E	
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## Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20					21		
			22		23			
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29				30				31
32			33				34	
35					36	37		
38					39			
40						41		

8-23

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-23

## CRYPTOQUOTE

BHDBTP EL PEAIL QGJJUP B  
VND YGHDIMKYJBHF N  
UBFWIWGKDP VWBUP NUU JWP  
GJWPMD VPMP ENRBHF DWBAD.  
— YWNMUPD DBEY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DEEP SUMMER IS  
WHEN LAZINESS FINDS RESPECTABILITY. —  
SAM KEEN

# Millennial Money: Do you need a prenap?

By DALIA RAMIREZ  
of NerdWallet

Prenuptial or premarital agreements, often called "prenups," have a reputation for being a tool the ultra-wealthy use to protect their assets. But as marriages have evolved, so have prenups and they might have more uses than you think. Prenups can give couples an opportunity to communicate about their finances and establish a clear framework for the division of property and responsibilities in case of separation, divorce or even the distribution of one partner's estate.

True, it's not very romantic to prepare for the worst while you're in a state of premarital bliss. However, marriage is one of the most significant contracts you can enter, and legal proceedings such as divorce and probate can be so costly and time-consuming that a prenup may be better to have and not need than to need and not have. Prenups can ensure that you, your partner and even your children are in the best possible financial position no matter what happens. Here's how to know if you need one, could benefit from one or may want to consider a different option.

## NOT ALL MARRIAGES ARE CREATED EQUAL

If you're inheriting a family business, have children from a previous marriage or are entering a marriage with significant debt, a prenup can give both partners and their families peace of mind. These conditions don't mean the marriage is more likely to end, just that the stakes are higher



In this May 14, 2014, file photo, Brad Padgett, owner of Bradley's Jewelers, shows off one of his favorite engagement rings in Jacksonville, N.C.

Associated Press

and more parties could be affected. Prenups can make a more significant difference in states with community property laws. For example, in Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin, any assets acquired by either partner during the marriage are divided equally in case of divorce, which can cause issues with complex assets like businesses. "I think everybody could benefit from a prenup; some more than others, depending on assets," says Nicole DiGiacomo, managing attorney of her own family and matrimonial law offices in Rockland and Westchester counties in New York. If your assets are complex or high-value, a prenup may be especially worth considering.

## A PRENUP ISN'T A DEATH SENTENCE

Some couples might be wary of prenups because it feels like they're planning for divorce before the marriage has even started. However, protecting yourselves and each other in case of divorce

doesn't mean you're aiming for it, just like writing a will doesn't mean you're hoping for your life to end. A prenup is "basically a will for a marriage," DiGiacomo says. "Most people want to have a will because they want to be able to decide what happens to their assets and not have a court decide." Prenups allow you to agree on a division of property that feels fair while things are good so that you're in control of the things that matter in a worst-case scenario. "I try to encourage people not to view it as a bad omen or a sign of mistrust," DiGiacomo says. "It's just accounting for a future possibility. No one wants to think about when they die, just like nobody wants to think of the death of their marriage."

couple the space to communicate openly about their finances. A prenup can be "a really helpful tool at the beginning (of a marriage) to get a good understanding of where each party stands," says Craig Harris, estate planning attorney at the Law Offices of Daniel A. Hunt in Sacramento, California. □

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# Behind 'Bottoms,' the wild, queer and bloody high school sex comedy coming to theaters

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

"Gay High School Fight Club" was the working title of the script that Emma Seligman and Rachel Sennott sent off to a producer a few years ago, riding a surreal wave of virtual goodwill after their film "Shiva Baby" became a kind of cult sensation during the pandemic.

This story was about two unpopular friends, PJ and Josie, who are eager to lose their virginity (ideally to two beautiful cheerleaders). The only way they can figure out how to get close to said cheerleaders, however, is to form an all-female self-defense class that quickly devolves into a bloody fight club. They knew it had the potential to be riotously funny, slyly insightful and boundary pushing for queer teen representation. But would anyone want to make it?

Though the cinematic misadventures of horny, flawed, straight teenage boys may essentially be its own genre with dozens of films spanning decades, there has not been an equivalent for queer girls. Thankfully, though, the producer who got the script was Alison Small, the head of film at Elizabeth Banks and Max Handelman's Brownstone Productions (also behind another wild hit this year, "Cocaine Bear"). Instead of liabilities in untested concepts, Small thought it was the funniest thing she had ever read. It was smart, weird and original. They were in.

The film, now called "Bottoms," is on its way to theaters Friday (and expanding next week), featuring "The Bear" breakout Ayo Edebiri as Josie, Kaia Gerber as the cheerleader Sennott's character PJ is lusting after, "Red, White & Royal Blue's" Nicholas Galitzine as a toxic quarterback, and former NFL player Marshawn Lynch as a very unconventional teacher.

"We thought a lot about camp casting and, like, John Waters," Seligman,



**Emma Seligman, center, director/co-writer of the film "Bottoms," poses for a portrait with cast member/co-writer Rachel Sennott, left, and cast member Ayo Edebiri, Thursday, June 29, 2023, in West Hollywood, Calif.**

who directed, said. "Taking people from all walks of life and all kind of industries — people who could make fun of their personas."

Seligman and Sennott have been working on "Bottoms" since around 2017, writing the part of Josie for Edebiri specifically.

The three, who spoke to The Associated Press in June before the actors strike, met as students at New York University. Though they said the school didn't exactly foster extracurricular collaboration between departments, Sennott helped create an environment where that was possible, encouraging people to help one another instead of just venturing out alone. "You were like skipping

your acting classes to work with the film students and meet the writing students and pushing to do stuff together and make sketches outside of school," Seligman said in a joint interview with Sennott and Edebiri. "I don't know what you were skipping to go audition for 'Shiva' and make that happen, but I'm glad you did." The class, Sennott said, was Shakespeare.

"Nobody knows what they're doing once they graduate," Edebiri said. "Even if you think you have everything lined up, you're still in the real world and there are still practical things like how do you get representation? Submit to festivals? How do you meet up with producers who

maybe are more established? There aren't classes for that.

We were trying to figure out the answers while we were still in school. So then as soon as we graduated, we could just hit the ground running, like jump into it and do it together."

And they all stayed true to their word, even if they weren't directly working together.

When Edebiri got a writing job, she told her friends what it was like. When Seligman started working on sets, she passed on her experiences. When Sennott and Edebiri teamed up for a short form (and short-lived) Comedy Central series "Ayo and Rachel are Single," they learned how

to take notes from a director as actors.

"I feel like we all helped each other forward," Sennott said. "Some things you can only learn from doing." "Bottoms," which is being released by MGM's Orion Pictures, is coming at a time when its stars are having a moment too, with Edebiri now a household name after two seasons as Sydney in Hulu's "The Bear" and Sennott having recently co-starred in the conversation-provoking HBO series "The Idol" as well as last year's wild horror "Bodies Bodies Bodies."

Seligman and Sennott have a library of references that helped inspire the tone of "Bottoms," from "Superbad" and "Drop Dead Gorgeous" to "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" and "Attack the Block," but it's also just its own thing too and there were many, many discussions about exactly what reality this world existed in. The answer isn't abundantly clear — the town is a kind of "Anytown," the sets and costumes and props are rooted in the 21st century but not anything hyper specific, and the intensity of a rivalry with a local football team is one that reaches absurd heights.

And then there's the fight club, which they had to keep reminding everyone wasn't just a joke. It was supposed to be very, very real.

"Once we actually started to shoot it and talk to other departments, we had to be clear that it was a real fight club and we were going to have real stunts and real blood," Seligman said. "I think some people still thought it was just going to be a fun comedy. ... As we kept on coming up against people asking, 'Wait, so are there going to be real stunts?' And for us it was like, 'What did you think this was going to be like?'"

"It became even more important as we were filming that we made clear that we wanted these girls to actually look really good as they were kicking ass." □

**Associated Press**



# Easy as 1, 2, 3: Grant Holloway breezes in 110-meter hurdles for his 3rd straight world title

By PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)

— Posing for the cameras, Grant Holloway counted out his back-to-back-to-back 110-meter hurdles world titles, raising one finger, then another, then another.

It was as easy as "1, 2, 3." Holloway made his race look almost that simple, too.

The American bolted to a fast start and never looked back Monday night at world championships, breezing to a victory in 12.96 seconds that elevated him into elite company. Holloway joined Greg Foster as the only 110 hurdler to win three straight world titles.

"Remarkable," Holloway exclaimed.

Before Holloway entered the scene, the mighty American hurdlers were in a little bit of a hurdling funk (a funk for them anyway). They'd gone two straight worlds without a gold in the 110.

That just wasn't like them.

"We were in a drought," said Holloway, who won his first world title in Doha in 2019 and again last summer in Oregon. "It was my goal is to get us out of the drought and I called it a restoration



Grant Holloway, of the United States, left, cross the line to win the gold medal in the Men's 110-meters hurdles final during the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Monday, Aug. 21, 2023.

phase. Now that we're out of the restoration phase, it's making sure I'm there."

He insisted his celebration shortly after the race while standing in the middle of the track was spontaneous. This wasn't a pre-planned sort of thing, because nothing can be planned with 10 hurdles standing in the way.

With the camera still zoomed in, Holloway held up all three fingers one final time before bouncing off to celebrate. He edged out

reigning Olympic champion Hansle Parchment of Jamaica by .11 seconds. Holloway's U.S. teammate, Daniel Roberts, finished with the bronze.

"When Hansle and Daniel and the rest of that field is in that race, you can never count anybody out," said the 25-year-old Holloway, who went to high school in Virginia before starring at the University of Florida. "The main thing is really just to continue to build off this consistency, build off

this success and continue to take the sport to high hopes."

Only fitting that Holloway achieved his feat on the 40th anniversary of Foster starting his at the inaugural 1983 world championships in Helsinki. Foster won again in 1987 and '91. As for overall world titles among 110 hurdles, Allen Johnson has four. Another American, Arries Merritt, holds the world-record holder by running 12.80 seconds in 2012.

"Historically, we've have

had a great tradition" in the hurdles, said Renaldo Nehemiah, the former world record holder in the event who's now the agent for newly crowned women's 100-meter champion Sha'Carri Richardson. "So you have guys who just want to be in that conversation as well."

Parchment has taken to studying just how effortlessly Holloway blasts out of the starting blocks. It's something Parchment wants to become even more proficient at before the Jamaican defends his Olympic title at the Paris Games next summer.

"He's the top man right now," Parchment said. "Grant is like a benchmark so I have to watch him to see what I can learn from him."

Like any good hurdler, Holloway avoids looking too far down the road. That's why Paris isn't on his mind just yet. He wound up with silver at the Tokyo Games.

"I'm just going to enjoy this," Holloway said. "When we get to that outdoor phase, I'll write down my goals, and put them in my book. I'll challenge myself and I will challenge my team to make sure I fulfill those goals. We'll make it happen." □

Associated Press

## WNBA teams ready for sprint to the postseason with coveted spots on the line

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

WNBA teams are ready for their sprint to the finish of the regular season with coveted playoff spots and positioning up for grabs.

Las Vegas, New York and Connecticut have already clinched spots in the postseason. The Aces hold a three-game lead on the Liberty for the top seed with the teams set to meet one last time in the regular season on Aug. 28. Las Vegas is beginning a difficult four-game road trip over the next week that ends in New York. The Aces also have a White House visit on Friday

to celebrate last season's championship thrown in there as well.

New York, which took over the top spot in the AP WNBA power poll for the first time this season, has a three-game lead on Connecticut for the second seed. Those teams play on Thursday and once more on Sept. 1.

Los Angeles has been the hottest team of the group, winning four straight, including handing the Aces their first regular season loss at home this year. The Sparks are currently in the eighth spot.

The first round of the WNBA

playoffs is a best-of-three format still with the better seeded team hosting the first two games of the series.

### AP WNBA POLL

Buoyed by its win in the Commissioner's Cup title game, New York took over the No. 1 spot in the power poll. The Liberty routed the Aces on their homecourt 82-63. Las Vegas won the regular season matchup two days later 88-75.

Dallas moved into third with Connecticut and Atlanta came after the Wings. Atlanta, Los Angeles and Minnesota were the next three. Washington, Chicago and Seattle. Indiana and Phoe-



Los Angeles Sparks guard Layshia Clarendon (25) drives to the basket between Las Vegas Aces guard Chelsea Gray (12) and forward Cayla George (13) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

nix rounded out the poll.

### PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Arike Ogunbowale averaged 23.5 points, 6 assists and 4.5 rebounds to help Dallas win both its game last week, including

a 20-point victory in Connecticut. Other players receiving votes included Nneka Ogumike and Layshia Clarendon of Los Angeles and Kelsey Mitchell of Indiana. □



# Small but mighty Curacao back in position to make a big run at the Little League World Series

By **SETH ENGLE**

**Associated Press**

**SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa.**

**(AP)** — Coming back to the Little League World Series after losing last year's title game, Curacao doesn't just want to be good for its size.

The team from Willemstad's Pabao Little League on the Caribbean island of about 150,000 people is aiming for bigger things, and with five players and its whole coaching staff back for a second straight year, it needs just two wins to return to the tournament championship undefeated.

"Those guys that were here last year, I tell them to just keep focus and keep talking with the other guys to do their job," manager Zaino Everett said Monday after his club beat Venezuela 2-1 — the team's second win following another victory by the same score against Australia.

Jay-Dlynn Wiel, D'Shawn Winklaar, Shemar Sophia Jacobus, Alexander Provacia Roach and Joshua Acosta Fernandez know what it's like to come up just short of the tournament title and don't want a repeat of 2022.

The team also may be a little less star struck than most, having so many players who have done the



Curacao's Nasir El-Ossais (13) is greeted at home plate after his two run home run off of Venezuela's Osman Basabe during the sixth inning of a baseball game at the Little League World Series tournament in South Williamsport, Pa., Monday, Aug. 21, 2023. Curacao won the game 2-1.

**Associated Press**

tournament thing before. Winning also equals international air time for Curacao and a chance to raise its baseball profile. In addition to winning the LLWS in 2004, Curacao has had more than its share of major leaguers for such a small country, including Boston's All-Star reliever Kenley Jansen, Atlanta infielder Ozzie Albies and Colorado's Jurickson Profar.

But still, "last year, people didn't know about us," Jay-Dlynn said. "When we

came to Williamsport, that's when people started to (learn) what Curacao is." Curacao isn't the flashiest team and its offense has combined for only four runs through two games. But the team's sturdy defense and pitching staff has set it apart, offering support to a struggling lineup until it inevitably makes something happen.

The strategy worked Monday, as Nasir El-Ossais hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning to beat Venezuela,

which coincidentally is Curacao's closest — and much bigger — neighbor in South America.

"We emphasized just getting a guy on base to make it a tie game," Everett said. "But then El-Ossais hit the home run, and gave another W to the Caribbean. "I just tell them every time, we can't win a game 0-0. You have to put at least one run on the board to win the game."

No team has been able to score a run or even tally a

hit on Taiwan — Curacao's next opponent — through two games.

Taiwan threw the tournament's first perfect game since 2017 on Thursday, a 6-0 win over Canada. On Monday, the Taiwanese no-hit Japan 10-0, ending the game after the fourth via mercy rule.

Fan Chen-Jun, who throws over 80 mph and started both the perfect game and no-hitter, will not be available on Wednesday because of pitch-count limits — a lucky break for Curacao.

"Fan is not able to pitch," Taiwan manager Lee Cheng-Ta said through a translator, "but we're confident that they can play well against the Curacao team. We want to do something special, which is just to do your best and let the kids have fun and face the next game."

Taiwan's dominance hasn't faltered Curacao's confidence, either.

Far from home but in familiar territory, Curacao expects to win the tournament whether the rest of the world knows its name or not.

"They have a great team," Everett said, "but we are great, too. When we win that game, we will go to the (international) finals." □



Philadelphia 76ers' James Harden (1) reacts after a play in the first half during Game 2 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs against the Brooklyn Nets, Monday, April 17, 2023, in Philadelphia.

**Associated Press**

## James Harden fined \$100,000 for public comments about status with 76ers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The NBA has fined Philadelphia 76ers guard James Harden \$100,000 for public comments he made about his status with the team.

Harden made public comments on Aug. 14 and Aug. 17 saying he would not perform the services called for under his player contract unless he were traded to another team. The league talked to Harden as part of its investigation and confirmed that his comments referenced Harden's belief that the 76ers would not grant his trade request.

Harden picked up his play-

er option for next season in June, but the 76ers have not found a deal, prompting Harden's anger. Among other things, he called 76ers president Daryl Morey a liar at a promotional event in China.

"Daryl Morey is a liar and I will never be a part of an organization that he's a part of," Harden said at the event. "Let me say that again: Daryl Morey is a liar and I will never be a part of an organization that he's a part of."

Harden has been one of the league's top players for the past decade, hav-

ing won three scoring titles and the 2018 league MVP award. He led the league in assists last season. But he hasn't won an NBA title, and with him turning 34 this week, time is running out. □

